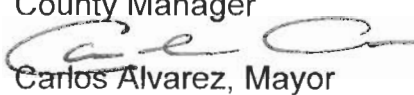




**MEMORANDUM
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR**

DATE: August 14, 2006

TO: George Burgess
County Manager

FROM: 
Carlos Alvarez, Mayor
Miami-Dade County

SUBJECT: Section 8 Housing Program

Miami-Dade County is taking necessary steps towards addressing the problems that have arisen within its housing related programs. While the revisions to procedures and staffing changes that have taken place are key, it is clear that transparency and vigilance are the best steps towards achieving excellence. We must combine all of our efforts to work resourcefully, dedicated to providing answers for our residents in need of affordable housing.

The Section 8 program is an integral component of the County's subsidized housing programs, with thousand of families participating and thousands more in waiting. With this in mind, I am requesting a report that delineates what recent changes have been made to the Miami Dade Housing Agency's (MDHA) Section 8 program and what revisions are forthcoming to promote greater efficiency. I would also like a breakdown of the process by which applicants are selected from the waiting lists for participation in the Section 8 and Public Housing programs. Facilitating and expediting processes, like payment collection and inspections for landlords, as well as promoting participation in the program from potential tenants and property owners is essential to take full advantage of the prospective impact of this program.

I would also like to know what challenges may be preventing the Section 8 program from achieving its utmost potential, be they budgetary, staff or otherwise. As next year's budget is being finalized, adequate funding should be included to ensure that MDHA can fulfill its mission. It is important that we work together to continue to implement the necessary reforms to ensure that we maximize our labors and resources for the benefit of our residents.

c: Honorable Chairman Joe A. Martinez and Members,
Board of County Commissioners
George Burgess, County Manager
Harvey Ruvin, Clerk of the Courts
Murray A. Greenberg, County Attorney
Kay Sullivan, Director, Clerk of the Board